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SESSION 66

SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL
BIBLE SCHOOL SECOND EDITION
SESSION 66 – FAITH PART 5
WHAT IS FAITH PART 2

Hebrews 11:1 *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”*

Hope doesn't have any substance, only faith does. But faith gives substance to things you are hoping for. In other words, what God is saying in **Hebrews 11:1** is that faith is taking hold of the unseen realm of hope and bringing it into the realm of reality.

As we know, faith grows out of the Word of God because **Romans 10:17** says,

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Another translation of **Hebrews 11:1** says,

“Faith is the warranty deed, that the thing for which you have fondly hoped is at last yours.”

Our text in the KJV says faith is the evidence of things not seen.

By way of illustration, you might **hope** for finances to meet a particular obligation, but **faith** gives you the assurance that you'll have the money when you need it. Also, you might **hope** for physical strength to do a job or task set before you, but **faith** says,

“...The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (**Ps. 27:1**).

In other words, faith says the same thing that the Word of God says.

Unbelief is really taking sides against God's word. The sad thing about this is that there are so many believers who are talking doubt and unbelief, and who are taking sides against the Word of God. Then these same believers wonder why God's Word isn't working for them.

God's Word won't work for you if you take sides against it. If you want God's Word to work for you, you must side in with it.

But what is faith – real Bible faith? One of the best ways to find out what something **is**, is to find out what it **isn't**. Then when you find out what it **isn't**, you can see more clearly what it **is**. Let's follow that approach as we continue this lesson on faith.

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MUCH OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS TEACHING HAS BEEN TAKEN FROM KENNETH E. HAGIN'S BIBLE STUDY COURSE ON FAITH

First, faith is not hope, which we have already discussed. Yet often when we pray for people and ask them, “Will you be healed when we pray, or will you be filled with the Holy Ghost when we lay hands on you and pray? Many times, they respond with, “I sure hope so.”

Well, our answer is, “As long as you are hoping you won’t receive from God because you receive from Him by faith, not by hope.

Others may say, “God, I want to be healed.” In order to show them that wanting something from God isn’t enough, often we say, you might want a new Cadillac, but that doesn’t mean you’re going to get one.”

You see, just wanting something from God won’t get the job done. If just wanting something from God is all it took to receive from God, we’d all have it made. We would receive instantly. But faith that receives from God isn’t hoping or wanting. The only kind of faith that gets the job done is the bible kind of faith which believes God and acts on what it believes.

You won’t receive from God because you hope. Nowhere in the Bible does God say that when we pray, we shall receive what we hope for. But God’s word DOES SAY in **Mark 11:24**,

“...What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

Jesus also said in **Matthew 21:22**,

“...all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, BELIEVING, ye shall receive.”

He didn’t say ask, then hope and receive. He said **BELIEVE** and ye shall **receive**.

If you want to know whether you are really believing God or if you are just hoping, I can tell you how to tell the difference. Hope is always future tense because hope always looks to the future. As long as you put off believing you receive NOW, you are hoping, and it will always be in the future. But NOW is when you want whatever God has promised you in His Word, not in the future.

For example, if a person wants to get saved, he wants to get saved NOW, and not in the future. The future may be too late. Many hope they are saved or hope to get saved but that is in the future, not in the NOW. Sadly, some of those people are now in hell because they never had faith to believe for salvation NOW.

This is what the bible says about salvation.

Ephesians 2:8, *"...by grace are ye saved through faith"*

You will notice it doesn't say saved through hope. It is through faith.

John 6:37 says, *"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."*

You will notice that they must come. That takes faith, not hope.

Romans 10:9-10 says, *"That if thou shalt CONFESS with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt BELIEVE in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."*

It doesn't mention hope at all, it says confess that Jesus is Lord, and BELIEVE in your heart to be saved. This is faith in action.

When a person is seeking salvation, you get them act on what the Word says NOW. The same is true for anything we are seeking. We receive it NOW by faith.

In other words, if we say, I hope God hears my prayers or I hope to be healed, or hope to receive the Holy Ghost, it is future tense. It is hope, and not faith.

Remember our text says *"NOW faith is..."* Or we could read it *"Now faith IS..."* That is present tense. Remember, if it is not now, it is not faith. Faith is present tense. Hope is future tense. Even though you might say you believe, if you are putting off what you believe to the future it is simply hope, and not faith.

This is the reason that the Word isn't working for many people. We must get our believing in the right tense. Some people are always saying that God is going to do something for them sometime in the future. Faith believes that He has done something and is doing something NOW.

Now when it comes to healing many may say, "I don't understand why I haven't received my healing. I know God promised to heal me."

Actually, God has not promised to heal you at all. Some say, "Doesn't the Word of God say in,

Matthew 8:17

'...Himself TOOK our infirmities, and BARE our sicknesses'

“Isn’t that a promise?”

NO, that isn’t a promise. That is a statement of fact that simply tells us something that has already happened. Many times, we call those scriptures and others like them promises when actually, they are statements of fact. They are just telling us of our provisions in Christ – what Jesus has already provided for us. That is a fact.

Some quote **1 Peter 2:24** where it says,

“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye WERE HEALED.”

Someone may say, “Isn’t that scripture a promise?” No, it isn’t a promise. It is a fact of what has already been done. It tells us that healing belongs to us in Christ. When people get beyond the hope to be healed to believing they are healed by faith when they pray, then many receive their healing immediately.

Faith is Present Tense

Once a man was conducting a healing service and a woman was brought to the service that had not walked in four years. She was older and was told by the doctors that she would never walk again. Her knees had given out and because she couldn’t walk, she had gained a great deal of weight.

She was brought to the healing line and sat her down on the altar. The man holding the meeting came and knelt in front of her, laid hands on her knees and prayed. Then he said to her, “Now sister, arise and walk in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

The woman did her best to get up, but the entire time was shouting out loud, “O, dear Jesus please heal me. You promised to heal me, and I am a burden to my family. Please, Lord, please heal me.”

The man tried to interrupt her, but she kept getting louder and louder saying the same thing, begging Jesus to heal her. He tried a second and third time to speak to her, but she just got louder and louder. She became hysterical, begging God to heal her.

Finally, the man took her shoulders, and shook her and said, “I command you to shut up in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.” She stopped and looked up at him rather startled, and the congregation put the brakes on him. They did not have faith for her to be healed.

In **Mark 6:5-6** in reference to Jesus' ministry in his hometown,

"5 And he (Jesus) could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them."

"6 And he marveled because of their unbelief..."

The congregation thought he was being rude to the lady, so he had to take the brakes off of the congregation first before he could do anything for the woman.

He asked the congregation a question. "If someone asked you directions to a certain place, but instead of following your directions, you saw that they mistakenly went the wrong way, wouldn't you stop them or flag them down and try to get them straightened out? If you knew they didn't know where they were going, wouldn't you try to get them going in the right direction?" They all agreed.

Then the man said, "All right, this woman was on the wrong road. She wasn't on the road to healing. She was on the wrong road, and all I did was just flag her down. Now I have her attention.

When he explained that, most of the people in the congregation took the brakes off and he felt a release in the spirit to minister to the woman again.

He said, "Now sister, did you know you are healed?"

She looked up at the man and her eyes got big, and she said, "Oh, am I?"

"Yes" he said, "you are healed, and I can prove it to you from the bible." So, he got his bible, opened it to **I Peter 2:24**, handed it to her, and said, "Would you read this verse aloud please?"

She read,

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED."

He then said, "Read that last part again."

She read, ***"...by whose stripes ye were healed."***

He asked her is the 'were' past tense, present tense, or future tense?"

She said, "It's past tense."

Then the man said, "If you WERE HEALED BY Jesus' stripes then you are healed, aren't you?"

She answered, "Yes, I am."

Then he said to her, "Will you do what I tell you to do?"

She answered with, "I will if it's easy."

He told her "This is the easiest thing you ever did in your life. Just lift your hands and look right up to heaven, and begin to praise God because you are healed, present tense. Praise Him because you are healed, not going to be healed; you are healed."

She looked up at him like a little child and said, "Dear Lord Jesus, I'm so glad I'm healed."

She hadn't walked a step yet. She had no evidence of healing whatever, but she said, "I'm so glad I'm healed. I'm so thankful, dear Lord Jesus. You know how tired I have gotten sitting around all these four years. Thank God, my knees are well, and my limbs are healed. I'm so thankful."

Then the man spoke to the congregation, "Let's thank God with her because she is healed – not going to be healed – but because she is healed."

You see, faith is present tense, not future tense. You've got to get your believing in the present tense for things to work for you. Most of the crowd raised their hands and praised God with her because she was healed.

Some probably said, "She's not healed. She hasn't walked a step yet." But we must remember that our text says in [Hebrews 11:1](#),

".....faith is the.....EVIDENCE of things not seen."

If you're going to wait till you see something before you believe it, then that isn't faith at all. That's leaning to the evidence of your senses.

After the man told the congregation to praise God with this woman, he turned to her and said, "Now sister, arise and walk in the name of Jesus." Immediately that woman jumped off that altar like a sixteen-year-old and walked and leaped and ran and praised God.

He had to get that woman's believing in the right tense. Remember, the Word will not work for you unless YOU get it in the right tense. As long as you are struggling to receive healing or anything else by saying you are going to get it in the future, you are not in faith. It is future tense. That's hope. Faith says, "It's mine. I have it NOW."

Faith is of the Heart, not the Head

We need to realize that faith is of the heart and not of the head. John Wesley used an expression for this, and it is "mental assent." Wesley said "People mentally agree that the Bible or the Word is true, but they don't believe it from their heart.

When it comes to receiving anything that we pray for we might ask, "What's the difference between heart faith and mental assent?" If you are just mentally agreeing, you will say that the bible is true, but I don't have my petitions I have prayed for and don't understand why."

Some might even say, "I know the scriptures are true, but can you tell me why I can't get healed?" The answer is simply this. "It's because you just said you can't."

The bible tells us in **Matthew 12:34**,

"...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

If you keep saying you "can't" get healed, then you will never get healed. When you start believing you can receive from God and believe you receive then you will get your answer to your prayers.

Turn your Faith Loose by Saying What you believe

When we start acting like God's word is true then things change. You can always act on God's word if it is only thanking and praising Him that He has heard you. If you believe God's word is true, you should act like it is true. It doesn't matter how much faith you have it will get no results until you put it into action.

In **Acts 14:7-9** it says,

"And there they preached the gospel. And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who steadfastly beholding him, and perceiving that HE HAD FAITH TO BE HEALED."

Get the picture? That man hadn't taken a step his whole life, yet he had faith to be healed. The bible says that.

Every believer has faith to be healed but you have to act on your faith or turn your faith loose for it to work for you. You do it by speaking. In **Mark 11:23** it says,

“For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

You turn your faith loose by saying what you believe. Faith can't be released out of your heart toward God without saying what you believe. Faith simply won't work without an expression or an action. Faith in our heart is released through our lips. It does no good if it just stays in our heart. We must speak out what we believe.

If you act without faith nothing will happen, it won't work. And, if you believe without action nothing will happen – it won't work. However, when faith and action are combined then the Word works. Now put your faith into action and receive what God says is yours by speaking it out and believing it.